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SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 4-18-13

BILL NO. SR 69

To Chairman John Brenden,

I graduated from Chinook High School in 1972. In 1977, I graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelors of Science in Agricultural Business. Upon graduation, I worked just short of three years for the North-East Montana PCA as a loan officer field representative. In 1980, I moved back to the family ranch to raise my family and assume control of the business from my father. For the past 32 years, I operated the family cattle ranch in northern Blaine County, and continue to do so.


I started hunting when in high school, and after owning land for 24 years, I have developed an appreciation for the work that goes into maintaining the balance between the interests of landowners and sportsmen. When I was young, the diverse wildlife we witness today was not as plentiful. I enjoy seeing the wildlife we have currently, and it is an enjoyment that I have passed on and share with my children. In the early 1990's, I attended a grazing meeting in Miles City, where a new FWP program called Block Management was discussed. Upon returning home, Henry Gordon and I contacted FWP, as well as a number of our neighbors, and established the North Blaine Block Management Area.

This Block Management area still exists today and actively participates in the program. The driving force behind Mr. Gordon and I participating was the idea that it would be beneficial to the landowners and the sportsmen, in that there would be open access for public hunting, while simultaneously increasing the number of FWP personnel patrolling the area in case of incidents. Several years later, I enrolled the southern portion of the family ranch in a separate Block Management Area. In 2012, the southern area participated in a pheasant release, and I have already submitted the paperwork to participate again in 2013.

In 2002, I was asked to serve on a search committee to identify potential state park sites in Region 6. Shortly after completing that term, I was then asked to serve on the original CAC committee for Region 6, serving one two-year term, and then an additional three-year term. In addition to these experiences, I have attached to this letter a summary of my community and board services through the last 30 years.

In closing, I wish to again thank you for your time in considering me for this position.

Respectfully,



Richard L. Stuker

## Community and Board Service

- 1 term Fish Wildlife and Parks Region 6 State Parks Search Committee
- 2 terms Region 6 Citizens Advisory Committee
- 8 years on the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts
  - Currently serving as chairman
- 14 Years on the Cherry Ridge and North Blaine Grazing Board
  - 10 years as chairman
  - Still currently serving as general board member
- 26 years on Triangle Communications and Central Montana Communications
  - 2 of which were spent as chairman of Triangle
  - 13 of which were as chairman of CMC
  - Still currently serving as general board member of Triangle and chairman of CMC
- 19 years on the Chinook School Board
  - 9 of which were spent as chairman
- 8 years on the Montana School Board Association
  - As the Region 2 Director
- 4 ½ years on the Worker's Comp Self-Insurance Board for schools in Montana
  - During my tenure we expanded the scope to encompass property and liability for schools
- 1 ½ years on the Montana Unified School Trust
  - Self-insured medical coverage for schools
- 10 years on the Montana Independent Telephone Association
  - 3 years, and still currently serving, as chairman
- 8 years on iConnect of Montana
  - 2 years as chairman
  - Still currently serving as general board member
- 4 years on the Montana Telephone Association Board of Directors
- Past 4-H leader
- 10 years MOA wrestling official
- 20 years federation and U.S.A swimming official
- Several other local boards, such as irrigation and mineral associations
- Newly appointed on the Sweet Medical Center Board of Directors in Chinook.